

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 NEA-11 /134 W
-----127118 270422Z /11

R 261641Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8906
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPARTMENT PASS LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, GW, US
SUBJECT: USG VIEWS ON ILO 1978 CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 127537

1. ON MAY 24, WE DISCUSSED REF WITH LABOR MINISTRY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DR. WINFRID HAASE, AND GAVE HIM A
NON-PAPER BASED ON THE TALKING POINTS. WE HAVE ALSO
SENT A COPY OF THESE TALKING POINTS TO THE UMBRELLA
EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATION IN COLOGNE. THE EMBASSY LABOR
ATTACHE IS IN HAMBURG THIS WEEK FOR THE TRIENNIAL DGB
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CONGRESS. HE WILL RAISE THE ILO SUBJECT WITH DGB
OFFICIALS THERE AND REPORT SEPARATELY.

2. DR. HAASE EXPRESSED STRONG APPRECIATION FOR RECEIV-
ING OFFICIAL USG VIEWS ON THE ILO CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH.
HE UNDERTOOK TO PASS OUR VIEWS TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY. HAASE NOTED THAT THE FRG HAS FELT

INCREASINGLY ISOLATED WITHIN THE ILO SINCE THE US WITHDREW. THE EC-9 TEND TO TAKE A LOWEST-COMMON-DENOMINATOR POSITION, AND THE FRG IS OFTEN UNDER PRESSURE TO GO ALONG WITH DILUTED POSITIONS FOR THE SAKE OF "EC UNITY".

3. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC POINTS, HAASE NOTED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT ARTICLE 17 CANNOT BE AMENDED TO FILTER OUT ALL EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTIONS. HE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT THE USG VIEWS GIVE SUCH WEIGHT TO STRUCTURAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE GOVERNING BODY. HAASE SAID THAT THE FRG HAS TAKEN A PASSIVE POSITION WITH REGARD TO STRUCTURE, PREFERRING TO WAIT FOR PROPOSALS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES RATHER THAN MAKING ITS OWN.

4. IN THIS REGARD, HAASE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR USG VIEWS ON THE STILL-VACANT AMERICAN PERMANENT SEAT IN THE GOVERNING BODY. SO FAR, THE FRG DELEGATION HAS BEEN WORKING, ON INSTRUCTION FROM LABOR MINISTER EHRENBERG, TO KEEP THAT SEAT UNOCCUPIED. THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN SOME SUGGESTIONS TO GIVE THIS SEAT TO ANOTHER WESTERN COUNTRY. HAASE SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF THE VACATED AMERICAN SEAT RAISES CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS FOR THE ILO, AND THAT A RESOLUTION ON THIS POINT MAY COME UP WHEN THE GOVERNING BODY MEETS NEXT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEEK. WITH THAT IN MIND, HAASE ASKED US FOR AN OFFICIAL USG POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE VACATED AMERICAN SEAT. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. HAASE SAID THAT MINISTER EHRENBERG WILL ATTEND THE ILO MEETING ON JUNE 16. THE FRG DELEGATION WILL HAVE THE SAME LEADERSHIP AS LAST YEAR: DR. HAASE, FOR THE GOVERNMENT; DR. WOLF-DIETER LINDNER, FOR THE EMPLOYERS; AND GERD MUHR, FOR THE WORKERS. STOESEL

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